

REMARKS

The above amendments insert the claim to benefit of the International Application PCT/FR02/00988 in which the U.S. is listed as a designated state (for the Examiner's information, Applicant attaches a copy of the cover sheet of the published International Application No. WO 02/077324).

Since the drawing Figures 1-4 were inadvertently omitted from the International Application, the present application is being filed as a Continuation (including Figs. 1-4) of the International Application. Since the written disclosure, alone, supports the claims, and since the written disclosure alone would enable one of ordinary skill in the art to practice the claimed invention, it is respectfully submitted that the insertion of Figs. 1-4 does not constitute "new matter". Furthermore, Figs. 1-4 are part of the French priority application 01 04064 (a certified copy of which will be later filed).

As the Examiner will note, the above-inserted Abstract of the Disclosure is an edited version of the English-language "Abstract" presented on the cover page of the WO 02/077324 publication.

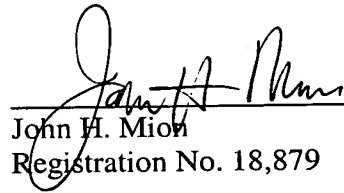
The claims have been amended to eliminate all multiple dependent claims (both proper and improper), thereby both ensuring examination of all claims on the merits in the first Office Action and also eliminating the need for a multiple dependent claim fee.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this application, and any required fee for such extension is to be charged to

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
PCT/FR02/00988, filed March 21, 2002

Deposit Account No. 19-4880. The Commissioner is also authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and/or § 1.17 necessary to keep this application pending in the Patent and Trademark Office or credit any overpayment to said Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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